

REMARKS

The present application was originally filed with 19 Claims. In the present Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has restricted the Claims into 23 Groups, as indicated below:

Group I contains Claims 1-12, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 26 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group II contains Claims 1-12, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 43 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group III contains Claims 1-12, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 46 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group IV contains Claims 1-12, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 54 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group V contains Claims 1-12, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 73 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group VI contains Claims 1-12 and 16-18, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 113 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group VII contains Claims 1-2, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 126 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group VIII contains Claims 1-2, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 184 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group IX contains Claims 1-2, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 228 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group X contains Claims 1-2, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 384 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XI contains Claims 1-2, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 410 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XII contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 26 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XIII contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 43 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XIV contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 46 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XV contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 54 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XVI contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 73 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XVII contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 113 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XVIII contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 126 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XIX contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 184 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XX contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 228 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XXI contains Claims 3-12, drawn to a modified phytase having a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 384 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2;

Group XXII contains Claims 3-12, drawn to nucleic acids, vectors and host cells encoding modified phytases and methods of making said phytases wherein said modified phytase has a modification of a residue within 5 amino acids and/or 6 amino acids of the alpha carbon of residue 410 of the mature *E. coli* phytase designated EBC18B2; and

Group XXIII contains Claims 13-15, and 19, drawn to methods of modifying a phytase.

Applicants respectfully submit that Groups X and XXI, as set forth by the Examiner in the Restriction Requirement are the same. Nonetheless, Applicant hereby elect the Claims in Group XXIII (*i.e.*, Claims 13-15, and 19), directed to methods of modifying a phytase, with traverse. Applicants respectfully traverse and request that amended Claims 9-12 and 17 be included within this Group, as they are directed toward methods for modifying a phytase. Claims 18 and 19 have been withdrawn, but Applicants would request that upon allowability of the method Claims, that these Claims would be rejoined.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, s/he is encouraged to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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